

Message

From: Benjamin, Kent [Benjamin.Kent@epa.gov]
Sent: 1/26/2021 7:24:49 PM
To: Breen, Barry [Breen.Barry@epa.gov]
CC: Hilosky, Nick [Hilosky.Nick@epa.gov]; Brooks, Becky [Brooks.Becky@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Answering President Biden's EJ Mandate - an appeal for your leadership

Understood.

From: Breen, Barry <Breen.Barry@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 2:20 PM
To: Benjamin, Kent <Benjamin.Kent@epa.gov>
Cc: Hilosky, Nick <Hilosky.Nick@epa.gov>; Brooks, Becky <Brooks.Becky@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Answering President Biden's EJ Mandate - an appeal for your leadership

Helena brought this up on today's 1:00 call. She said she is discussing with the new AA for OP, and would we please wait on sending out Charles' message further, until we hear back from Helena on it. She didn't say much more about it, so I'll keep you posted as I hear more, and would you let me know if you hear anything too?

Barry

From: Lee, Charles
Sent: Sunday, January 24, 2021 10:30 AM
To: Tejada, Matthew <Tejada.Matthew@epa.gov>; Henry, Tala <Henry.Tala@epa.gov>; Dunham, Sarah <Dunham.Sarah@epa.gov>; Sawyers, Andrew <Sawyers.Andrew@epa.gov>; Breen, Barry <Breen.Barry@epa.gov>; Orme-Zavaleta, Jennifer <Orme-Zavaleta.Jennifer@epa.gov>; Payne, James (Jim) <payne.james@epa.gov>; Starfield, Lawrence <Starfield.Lawrence@epa.gov>; Szaro, Deb <Szaro.Deb@epa.gov>; Mugdan, Walter <Mugdan.Walter@epa.gov>; Esher, Diana <Esher.Diana@epa.gov>; Blevins, John <Blevins.John@epa.gov>; Newton, Cheryl <Newton.Cheryl@epa.gov>; Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>; Chu, Ed <Chu.Ed@epa.gov>; Thomas, Deb <thomas.debrah@epa.gov>; Jordan, Deborah <Jordan.Deborah@epa.gov>; Pirzadeh, Michelle <Pirzadeh.Michelle@epa.gov>; Nishida, Jane <Nishida.Jane@epa.gov>
Cc: Siciliano, CarolAnn <Siciliano.CarolAnn@epa.gov>; Best-Wong, Benita <Best-Wong.Benita@epa.gov>; EJ Program Managers <EJ_Program_Managers@epa.gov>; Badalamente, Mark <Badalamente.Mark@epa.gov>; Grundler, Christopher <grundler.christopher@epa.gov>; Tsirigotis, Peter <Tsirigotis.Peter@epa.gov>; McLain, Jennifer L. <McLain.Jennifer@epa.gov>; Nagle, Deborah <Nagle.Deborah@epa.gov>; Shaw, Betsy <Shaw.Betsy@epa.gov>; Goodin, John <Goodin.John@epa.gov>; Barnet, Henry <Barnet.Henry@epa.gov>; Kelley, Rosemarie <Kelley.Rosemarie@epa.gov>; Dombrowski, John <Dombrowski.John@epa.gov>; Leff, Karin <Leff.Karin@epa.gov>; Mackey, Cyndy <Mackey.Cyndy@epa.gov>; Keigwin, Richard <Keigwin.Richard@epa.gov>; Messina, Edward <Messina.Edward@epa.gov>; Collazo Reyes, Yvette <CollazoReyes.Yvette@epa.gov>; Stalcup, Dana <Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov>; Hoskinson, Carolyn <Hoskinson.Carolyn@epa.gov>; Douchand, Larry <Douchand.Larry@epa.gov>; Barolo, Mark <Barolo.Mark@epa.gov>; Lloyd, David <Lloyd.DavidR@epa.gov>; Salyer, Kathleen <Salyer.Kathleen@epa.gov>; Gervais, Gregory <Gervais.Gregory@epa.gov>; Edwards, Jonathan <Edwards.Jonathan@epa.gov>; Dombrowski, John <Dombrowski.John@epa.gov>; Rodan, Bruce <rodan.bruce@epa.gov>; Ross, Mary <Ross.Mary@epa.gov>; Watkins, Tim <Watkins.Tim@epa.gov>; thomas.rusty@epa.gov; Cascio, Wayne <Cascio.Wayne@epa.gov>; Sayles, Gregory <Sayles.Gregory@epa.gov>; Slimak, Michael <Slimak.Michael@epa.gov>; Dieu, Martin <Dieu.Martin@epa.gov>; Kasman, Mark <Kasman.Mark@epa.gov>; Smith, Walker <Smith.Walker@epa.gov>; Berrios, Lisa <Berrios.Lisa@epa.gov>; Wooden-Aguilar, Helena <Wooden-Aguilar.Helena@epa.gov>; Tomiak, Robert <tomiak.robert@epa.gov>; Dalbey, Matthew <Dalbey.Matthew@epa.gov>; McGartland, Al <McGartland.Al@epa.gov>; Nickerson, William <Nickerson.William@epa.gov>; Hughes, Hayley <hughes.hayley@epa.gov>; Hunt, JuanCarlos <Hunt.Juancarlos@epa.gov>; Dorka, Lilian <Dorka.Lilian@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Answering President Biden's EJ Mandate - an appeal for your leadership

Colleagues

Last Friday, OEJ announced a public facing EJ and Systemic Racism Speaker Series. The first set of sessions will focus on redlining and current environmental challenges, particularly the climate crisis. The first session will feature The Mapping Inequality Project and is scheduled for March 4. We urge you to send the notice to all members in your organization with a personal note of support from you. Matt Tejada and I had made a point to the transition team about the existing groundswell of innate desire and palpable passion among EPA staff for addressing the issue of systemic racism when we started this conversation last summer. We can now demonstrate and amplify this to the incoming new leadership with an agency-wide display of your open, affirmative and collective commitment to this important Presidential priority.

Best regards
Charles

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is launching the Environmental Justice (EJ) and Systemic Racism Speaker Series by featuring [The Mapping Inequality Project](#) on March 4, 2021 at 12:00 – 1:00 pm EST. This unique collaboration created a foundational resource for unprecedented research, education, organizing, and policy advocacy on redlining and current environmental challenges. It provides publicly accessible digitized versions of redlining maps for about 200 cities. This has already generated an explosion of trailblazing work in the area of EJ and systemic racism. Project co-founders Robert Nelson, University of Richmond, and LaDale Winling, Virginia Tech, will discuss the genesis, philosophy, methodology, and impact of this game changing project. **REGISTER NOW!** Please share with colleagues and networks.

The objectives of this speaker series are:

- Provide information on groundbreaking, cutting-edge work in science, policy and practice to strengthen the evidentiary link between historical inequities and current environmental conditions;
- Inspire leaders and staff in communities, academia, business and industry, and civil society to think about how systemic racism relates to their own work by hearing from leading national policy experts, researchers and practitioners;
- Align government leaders and staff with the leading work taking place in this area and create a cohesive environment for fruitful partnerships; and
- Create intellectual ferment about dealing with systemic racism in a rigorous manner so that EPA and other environmental agencies can overcome their historical aversion to talking about race and systemic racism.

We begin this series with a set of five sessions that thoroughly examines the relationship of redlining and current environmental challenges, particularly the climate crisis. A recent National Center for Civil and Human Rights webinar on [EJ, redlining and the climate crisis](#) provides a good overview of this subject. Future topics will include: Title VI and civil rights program, EJ research and analysis, rural inequities, and others. Suggestions are welcomed. Registration information for each session forthcoming. For more information, contact [Charles Lee](#) or [Sabrina Johnson](#).

Charles Lee

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From: Tejada, Matthew <Tejada.Matthew@epa.gov>

Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2021 12:45 PM

Subject: Answering President Biden's EJ Mandate - an appeal for your leadership

Colleagues,

First, I hope you are all safe and well and as excited as we are in the EJ Program about the prospect of making an enormous leap forward on delivering EPA's mission for our country's people of color, indigenous and low-income communities in a new and powerful way. And that work begins right now.

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

The EJ Program is here to support you in this work, but we cannot integrate EJ throughout EPA alone. We need each one of you in your leadership capacities to answer this call. If any of you would like to discuss, have questions, or desire

my participation in a forum or conversation, please let me know. That is why I am here, why OEJ is here, and why the EJ program has worked hard over the past four years to be in the strongest position possible to act in this moment.

I want to end this message with a few of the words from President Biden's inaugural that I thought were particularly poignant for the moment we are in and the work that is before us:

Folks, this is a time of testing. We face an attack on our democracy and on truth, a raging virus, growing inequity, the sting of systemic racism, a climate in crisis, America's role in the world. Any one of these will be enough to challenge us in profound ways. But the fact is, we face them all at once, presenting this nation with one of the gravest responsibilities we've had. Now we're going to be tested. Are we going to step up? All of us? It's time for boldness, for there is so much to do. And this is certain, I promise you: We will be judged, you and I, by how we resolve these cascading crises of our era. Will we rise to the occasion is the question. Will we master this rare and difficult hour? Will we meet our obligations and pass along a new and better world to our children? I believe we must. I'm sure you do as well. I believe we will. And when we do, we'll write the next great chapter in the history of the United States of America.

Sincerely,

Matthew

Matthew Tejada
Director - Office of Environmental Justice
Environmental Protection Agency
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Pronouns: he, him, his

For up-to-date information, subscribe to EPA's Environmental Justice listserv by sending a blank email to: join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov